GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3008
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
UNDERGROUND FIRE IN COAL MINES
Bose Shri Subrata

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.(BCCL) affected due to underground fire, the quantum of coal burnt so far and the progress made in regard to fire fighting project;

(b) the estimated coal reserve in Jharia Coalfields and the other coal reserves affected due to subsidence caused by fire;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to contain the fire and save Jharia township;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for relocating Jhaira township;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed rehabilitation scheme; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) The total surface area of BCCL affected due to fire had been assessed to be 8.9 sq km in 1995 against the earlier area of about 17 sq. km at the time of nationalisation. The quantum of coal burnt as per earlier assessment is 37 million tonnes.

BCCL has been taking steps to control the underground and surface fire and 22 fire projects for control of fire have bee taken up since 1997-98 and Rs. 76 crore have been spent for control of fire. Since 1997-98, 13 Environmental Measures and Subsidence Control (EMSC)/Rehabilitation, Control of Fire & Subsidence (RCFS) Schemes have been sanctioned by Ministry of Coal for control of fire and subsidence. Out of these, 6 EMSC/RCFS schemes have been completed and 6 schemes are on-going. One scheme of RCFS has been dropped due to dismantling of Dhanbad/Patherdih Railway line. Further 5 new fire and subsidence control schemes have been started under the Master plan for dealing with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation (2006).

(b) The geological coal reserves or Jharia Coalfield within the leasehold of BCCL up to a depth of 1200m, as on 01.04.2007 is 16815.66 Million Tonnes and the details are as follows:

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Prime  Coking  Coal - 4690.62  Million Tonnes
Medium  Coking  coal - 5486.23  Million Tonnes
Non-coking  coal - 6638.81   Million Tonnes


Total   - 16815.66  Million Tonnes
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As per the updated Master Plan(July, 2006) of BCCL prepared by CMPDIL it was estimated that about 37 million tonnes of good quality prime coking coal has been destroyed and about 1864 million tonnes of coal has been locked up due to fire.

(c) & (d) At present there is no mine fire below the main Jharia town and there is no proposal to relocate the main Jharia town. CMPDI has prepared a Master Plan for dealing with fire, subsidence arid rehabilitation in BCCL in which 595 sites have been identified to be endangered and required shifting for safety of the people residing in these areas. These sites are scattered all over the coalfield covering most of the areas of BCCL.

Some areas near Jharia town like Chouthalkuli, Katras more, Indira Chawk, Kukurthapa, New Colony near Parsartand, Khas Jharia (part). Shamsarnager, Bokapahari, 1 pit area, Dhaskapatti, Suratand and Hanumangari are also identified by CMPDI for shifting due to the effects of fire and subsidence. The Master Plan envisages shifting of about 98000 houses from 595 sites over a period of 12 years.

(e)& (f) The salient features of the proposed Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R & R) package of CMPDI as per Master Plan is as follows:-

a) For Private authorized houses (Non BCCL)

i) Cash compensation for land and building as per market rate.
ii) Plot of land of 100 sqm at resettlement site having all amenities and infrastructure in case the above offer is not acceptable then head of the house will be provided with a constructed flat of 40 sqm. Besides this, shifting allowance of Rs. 10,000/- per house and income generation is proposed for 250 days for 2 years as per minimum wage of the state.

b) For non authorized houses (Non BCCL)

i) As per R&R package the encroachers will be provided with a constructed house of about 27 sq.m. in triple storied building with basic amenities and infrastructure like Road, Drains, Water Supply and electrification. Further, shifting allowance of Re. 10000/-per house and income generation of 250 days in a year for 2 years.

The proposed R & R package is yet to be approved by the Government of Jharkhand.